

LLOYD DOGGETT
25TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTH



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 22, 2007

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
201 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4865

DISTRICT OFFICES:
311 NORTH 15TH STREET
McALLEN, TX 78501
(956) 687-5921

300 EAST 8TH STREET, SUITE 763
AUSTIN, TX 78701
(512) 916-5921

E-MAIL: LLOYD.DOGGETT@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV
www.house.gov/doggett/
1-866-916-5921

Marlene Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: WC Docket No. 02-60
Rural Health Care Pilot Program
Texas Health Information Network Collaborative- (THINC)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I write to give my strong support to the Texas Health Information Network Collaborative – (THINC) in their application for a Rural Health Care Pilot Program grant from the Federal Communications Commission. Its infrastructure proposal would boost support for rural healthcare providers that are providing essential health services to traditionally underserved populations.

THINC is a statewide effort encompassing all of Texas. It will allow rural healthcare providers to connect with urban medical centers, telehealth programs and services, medical education and other services by making high speed broadband access available, resulting in improved access to care, increased patient safety and quality, and increased patient and clinician satisfaction.

THINC's project will increase access to services in counties like Bastrop, Caldwell, Colorado, Fayette, Gonzales, Lavaca, and Travis. At a time when Texas bears the dubious distinction of leading the nation in the number of uninsured – both for the total population and for children – it is essential to support programs that allow providers in rural areas to provide the highest quality care possible.

I applaud the FCC's interest in expanding the capabilities of rural health care delivery and improving the care of all Texans. Please give this application your full and fair consideration and let me know by phone or fax the final decision on this important grant.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett

LD: muc